

BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON.

REPORT

ON

**THE SCHOOLS AND THE
SCHOOL CHILDREN,**

For the Year Ending December 31st, 1912,

BY

FREDERICK J. WHEELDON

M.R.C.S., L.S.A., M.O.H.,

Medical Officer to the Education Committee.



PRESTON :

MATHER BROS., 31, LUNE STREET.

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L.S.A., M.O.H.

School Nurse.....Miss HOLT.

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*To the Education Committee of the
Borough of Middleton.*

POST OFFICE BUILDINGS,

MIDDLETON, APRIL 7TH, 1913.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Sixth Annual Report on the Schools and School Children in the Borough, resulting from the Medical Inspection carried out during the year 1912.

I have this year considered it advisable to discontinue the annual returns of the observation of the teachers on the whole of the children in the schools, which were given in Part III of former reports. The immense amount of labour entailed, both to the teachers and to myself, is quite out of proportion to any good resulting from their compilation.

As in 1911 the same groups of children have been inspected, viz. : entrants, leavers, and nine years old. The total number, 1,957 is larger than usual, owing to the fact that an attempt was made at the first four schools inspected to include also all the children who were inspected three years before in 1909. This was, however, found to be impossible, and was therefore abandoned in favour of the three groups only.

The routine of the inspection was the same as in previous years. More treatment of eye, ear, and skin diseases has been accomplished than in previous years, and great advantage accrues from this, as it has been possible to obtain better results and much shorter periods of absence from school.

The fact that all these cases have to be treated in the office is a great discomfort, and as many of them are very dirty, it is desirable that some better accommodation for this part of the work should be provided.

Considerable changes have taken place in the staff during 1912. Nurse Hoyle's resignation of the part time post took effect at the end of May, and Nurse Holt was appointed full-time School Nurse. This has made a distinct advance in the efficiency with which the provisions of the Act have been carried out, and there is quite enough work in connection with over 4,000 children to keep one nurse fully employed. I am able to say with confidence that Nurse Holt has performed all the duties of her post in a most satisfactory manner, and that she is a very valuable assistant to me in the work of inspection and supervision.

Miss Davison resigned her clerkship at the end of the year, to my very strong regret, as she was a very excellent and accurate worker. Miss Leonard, who succeeded her, is rapidly becoming quite efficient, and does her work in a satisfactory manner.

I again desire to express my indebtedness to all the Teachers for their very willing assistance and their forbearance with what must seem to them, very often, a troublesome interference with the routine of the school work.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

FREDK. J. WHEELDON,

School Medical Officer.

SUMMARY OF LOCAL CONDITIONS.

Acreage of Borough, 4,741.
 Population (Census, 1911), 27,983.
 Population (Estimated, 1912), 28,300.
 Rateable Value, £126,939.
 Poor Rate, 1912, 3s. 7d. in the £.
 Rate for Education Purposes, 1s. 1½d. in the £.
 Number of Births, 1912, 607.
 Rate per 1,000 of Population, 21.4.
 Deaths of Infants under one year old, 71.
 Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births, 117.
 Deaths of Children aged 1 to 5 years, 28.
 Deaths of Children aged 5 to 15 years, 13.
 Number of Children on Registers, January, 1912, 4,387.
 Number of Half-timers, January, 1912, 219.
 Number of Children on Registers, January, 1913, 4,390.
 Number of Half-timers, January, 1913, 255.
 Average Attendance, January, 1912, 3673. } Ex. Children
 Average Attendance, January, 1913, 3633.5 } under 5 years.

SCHOOLS AND ACCOMMODATION.

	Mixed.	Infants.	Total.
C.E. St. Leonard's	433	213	646
C.E. St. Michael's, Tonge	440	158	598
C.E. Holy Trinity, Parkfield ..	270	258	528
C.E. St. Gabriel's, Middleton Junction	230	113	343
C.E. All Saints, Rhodes	—	308	308
C.E. St. John's, Thornham	136	47	183
C.E. St. Mary's, Birch	124	91	215
R.C. St. Peter's, Tonge	246	99	345
P.M. Bowlee	95	36	131
C. Durnford Street	704	298	1002
C. Elm Street	378	208	586
C. Rhodes	324	—	324

INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

I have personally made a systematic inspection of all the school premises at intervals during the year, and have brought to the notice of the Head Teachers any matter of minor importance such as want of cleanliness and ventilation.

There are several playgrounds connected with the schools, notably St. Gabriel's, Middieton Junction, which are in a very bad condition, especially in wet weather.

Some receptacle for paper, orange peel, etc., should be provided at every school, and the children taught to place the refuse therein. When this is done, as it is at most of the schools, there is a decided superiority in the tidiness of the school yard and it affords an excellent object lesson to the children.

Latrines are fairly well kept as a rule. I have found in a few cases, especially in the boys urinals, a condition which is very offensive, and there is a distinct lack of discipline in this matter. The latrines would be greatly improved by more frequent limewashing. They should be whitewashed at least twice a year.

Lavatories are an absolute necessity in all schools, and in the new schools are quite satisfactory, but in some of the old schools there is a tendency to ignore the use of the wash basin, the principal employment of them, where they are provided, being for the cleansing of ink pots. The provision of towels is not satisfactory, and should be made in proportion to the number of children in each school.

All the schools in the Borough are now heated with hot water pipes or radiators, but during the time that the central heating is not employed some provision should be made for an open fire on wet days, in order to dry the clothes of the children. Many come quite a long distance to school, and frequently arrive in a soaked condition. It is a source of great danger to their health to sit in school with wet clothing on, and this should be avoided.

The following resumé of the conditions at each school in the matter of the proportion of attendance to accommodation, affords an opportunity for various criticisms and suggestions :—

St. Leonard's School.

Accommodation (Infants and Mixed)	646
Number on Register, Jan., 1913.....	609
Average Attendance	530.5
Percentage Attendance	93.7

The Infants cloakroom on the ground floor should be altered to suit the height of the children using it. Many of the pegs are quite out of the reach, and a number are broken off. There are forms on which the children climb to reach the higher row of pegs, but they not only obstruct the limited space, but are more or less dangerous. The ventilation is quite inadequate, and although this cloakroom is well warmed, the two upper ones, on the mezzanine and first floor have no heat except that passing through holes in the ceiling of the infants' cloakroom.

There are three lavatory basins at this School, one in each cloakroom, two taps can only be used with a key, and the third is not usable at all.

The ventilation at this School is excellent, and has been further improved by the provision of a hopper ventilator over the door opening into the passage from the infant school.

St. Michael's, Tonge.

Accommodation (Infants and Mixed)	598
Number on Register	531
Average Attendance, Jan., 1913.....	437.8
Percentage Attendance	92.3

The iron spikes on the wall separating the School yard from the road are in a dangerous condition. They should be replaced or removed altogether. The latrines require attention. Some of the seats are in a bad condition and requires renewing, and the walls want whitewashing. The cloakrooms are the passages, and the new cloakroom provided for the infants has reduced the classrooms by one, so that in the large room on the ground floor there are now three classes being taught at the same time.

All the obscured glass in the windows at this School should be replaced by clear glass, and hopper ventilators placed in the lower panes. This will be of even greater importance if the proposed scheme of partitions in the large room is carried out,

The lavatory arrangements are very primitive, the only suitable one being in the new cloakroom.

This School is very dirty, principally in consequence of its situation, and it would be advisable to colour wash the walls more frequently.

Holy Trinity, Parkfield.

Accommodation (Infants and Mixed)	528
Number on Register, Jan., 1913.....	373
Average Attendance, Jan., 1913.....	312.5
Percentage Attendance, Jan., 1913	92.2

The conditions at this School are fairly satisfactory with the exception that the classroom known as Noah's Ark, is still in regular use. I am informed by the Head Master that its use is unavoidable ; but it is most unsuitable, and being separated from the rest of the mixed school by the playground, supervision is impossible.

St. Gabriel's, Middleton Junction.

Accommodation (Infants and Mixed)	343
Number on Register, Jan., 1913.....	388
Average Attendance, Jan., 1913.....	324.8
Percentage Attendance, Jan., 1913	89.6

The playground at this School is still in a very bad condition. The flagging immediately round the walls of the school has improved matters somewhat, but the whole surface should be either asphalted or flagged. Nothing has yet been done to improve the lighting in the large room, and the ventilation requires further attention.

All Saints', Rhodes.

Accommodation (Infants only)	308
Number on Register, Jan., 1913.....	166
Average Attendance, Jan., 1913.....	98.6
Percentage Attendance, Jan., 1913	77.7

This School is greatly improved since my last report by the provision of new latrines and lavatories, and by the repairing of the school yard. The latter has not been done well as it is still uneven, so that pools of water accumulate in wet weather.

St. John's, Thornham.

Accommodation (Infants and Mixed)	183
Number on Register, Jan., 1913.....	96
Average Attendance, Jan., 1913.....	70.6
Percentage Attendance, Jan., 1913	84.1

This School is quite satisfactory as a country school.

St. Mary's, Birch.

Accommodation (Infants and Mixed)	215
Number on Register, Jan., 1913.....	88
Average Attendance, Jan., 1913.....	75.2
Percentage Attendance, Jan., 1913	91.4

This is again a country school, and is fairly satisfactory. The double doors leading out of the Infant School should be altered. In wet and windy weather, with the wind in the right direction there is a strong draught, and water is forced under the doors half-way up the room. The position of the school is a very exposed one. In wet weather the playground is in a very bad condition

St. Peter's, Tonge.

Aecommodation (Infants and Mixed)	345
Number on Register, Jan., 1913.....	341
Average Attendance, Jan., 1913.....	268.4
Percentage Attendance, Jan., 1913	84.4

The conditions of this school are fairly good generally. It has only two classrooms in the mixed department, and this necessitates three or four classes being taught in the large room at the same time. Partitions would make a great improvement here. The latrines require more frequent flushing.

BOWLEE SCHOOL.

Accommodation (Infants and Mixed)	131
Number on Registers, Jan., 1913	70
Average Attendance, Jan., 1913.....	64.9
Percentage Attendance, Jan., 1913	95.1

This small country school is generally satisfactory and the type of children is very good indeed.

RHODES COUNCIL SCHOOL.

Accommodation (Mixed only)	324
Number on Register, Jan., 1913.....	273
Average Attendance, Jan., 1913.....	257.4
Percentage Attendance, Jan., 1913	94.2

As alterations and additions to this school are to be made during 1913, I would suggest that the latrines should be arranged on the same plan as those at Elm Street and Durnford Street, which are much superior to any others at the schools. The ventilation of the present classrooms should be also proceeded with by the provision of hopper ventilators in the lower panes. The fencing round the school yard should be made more substantial. At present the playground is used as a football ground by the boys of the village, on Sunday afternoons. Some means should be provided for closing the entrance into the outside corridors when the school is not open.

DURNFORD STREET COUNCIL SCHOOL.

Accommodation (Infants and Mixed)	1002
Number on Register, Jan., 1913.....	766
Average Attendance, Jan., 1913.....	634.9
Percentage Attendance, Jan., 1913	90.6

ELM STREET COUNCIL SCHOOL.

Accommodation (Infants and Mixed)	586
Number on Register, Jan., 1913.....	466
Average Attendance, Jan., 1913.....	388
Percentage Attendance, Jan., 1913	89.9

These two new council schools, opened in 1910, are in all respects excellent. The warming difficulty in the senior department at Durnford Street appears to have been overcome, and the covering of the tops of the radiators has stopped, to a great extent, the unsightly discoloration of the discoloured walls.

In the details given above it should be noted that the number of children on the register includes those under 5 years, whereas the average attendance and the percentage attendance relate only to children over 5 years. The number of children on the registers of all the schools, in January, 1913, who had not reached the age of 5, was 359. Further, there were 202 Middleton children on the registers of Mills Hill Schools and the Wesleyan School, Middleton Junction, which schools are in the Chadderton district.

HEALTH OF THE CHILDREN.

The number of notifications of illness received from the Teachers during 1912 was 1,362, and the number of visits paid by the Nurses to the homes of the children in consequence of these notifications, 1,395. The following table gives the number of each class of ailment notified, and the visits paid :—

	Notifications.		Visits paid.
Measles.....	222	...	222
Mumps	107	...	107
Chicken Pox.....	90	...	96
Whooping Cough.....	40	...	39
Scarlet Fever	10	...	1
Pediculosis.....	19	...	20
Ringworm.....	15	...	15
Impetigo	16	...	32
Ophthalmia	30	...	30
Other Ailments	813	...	813
Total	1362	...	1395
Number of visits to Schools			276
Number of visits for Medical Inspection			120
Total.			1791

The following table gives the number of cases of each disease notified from each school during the year :—

SCHOOL.	Measles.	Mumps.	Chicken Pox.	Whooping Cough.	Pediculi.	Ringworm.	Impetigo.	Ophthalmia.	Other Accidents.	Total.
National.....	52	7	11	21	5	..	6	8	89	199
Durnford St ...	49	20	19	14	8	7	7	15	508	647
Elm St.	1	2	...	...	...	3	1	2	17	26
Rhodes	42	46	7	...	1	...	...	...	18	114
Bowlee	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Birch	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	14
Tonge	39	3	21	1	1	...	1	1	26	90
St. Gabriel's ..	3	21	13	2	2	2	1	2	87	133
St. Peter's.....	6	...	6	...	1	...	...	...	13	26
Parkfield	7	8	13	2	1	3	...	2	33	69
Thornham.....	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	18
	222	107	90	40	19	15	16	30	813	1352

There was an increase of 79 in the notifications of Measles, and an increase of 36 in the notifications of the other principal infectious diseases, viz. : Mumps, Chicken Pox, and Whooping Cough.

The 15 cases of Ringworm and 16 of Impetigo notified, are considerable decreases from the previous years returns, but in the case of Ringworm 30 further cases were found in the schools by the Nurse on her visits, making a total of 45 cases of this disease.

The number of cases of general sickness notified, 813, was very large, and 63 more than in the previous year. Many of these cases should have been reported to the attendance officer, rather than to me, but it is a somewhat difficult question for the teachers to decide upon, and it is advisable that all cases of absence through illness should be notified as before.

Measles has been very prevalent during the year, and has seriously interfered with school attendance.

The schools chiefly affected were :—

Bowlee, in March.

Thornham, in May and June.

Durnford Street, in October and November.

National, in November.

Tonge, in November and December.

Rhodes, Infants in December.

After January there was no month of the year without one or more cases of Measles occurring in one or other of the schools. In the outbreak at Bowlee School, 16 school children were affected. In the Thornham outbreak there were 44. At Bowlee practically all the children in the Infant School had Measles, and at Thornham 32 children in the Mixed School, and 12 in the Infant School were attacked. This large percentage of children aged 7 to 13 years, 54 per cent., was due to the fact that the Parish of Thornham had been for many years free from an outbreak of Measles, and consequently the incidence of the disease was altered as regards age of the patients.

The comparison of the percentage of cases in the various age groups of the children attacked in the Thornham epidemic, with the corresponding percentages in the Middleton epidemic, was as follows :—

	Under 4 years.	4 to 7 years.	7 to 13 years.
Thornham.....	6 10 %	12 20 %	32 54 %
Middleton	24 10 %	184 80 %	21 9.1 %

The action taken as regards the schools was the same as in previous years. There was no closure of schools and exclusion of affected children was applied immediately on the appearance of symptoms of the commencement of an attack. The children from the infected houses were excluded if attending the Infant school, but the older children who attended the Mixed department were allowed to continue their attendance.

Whooping Cough —Forty cases only were notified, a decrease of 93 from the number in 1911. The schools affected were National, 21 cases ; Durnford Street, 14 cases ; St. Gabriel's and Parkfield, 2 each ; and Tonge, 1 case. The cases notified occurred principally in March, 6 ; May, 12 ; June, 7 ; and July, 6 cases.

Mumps—One hundred and seven cases were notified an increase of 60 over the number in 1911. They occurred chiefly in June, 15 ; July, 19 ; and October, 52 cases. The schools seriously affected were Durnford Street, 20 ; Rhodes, 46 ; and St. Gabriel's, 21 cases. Many of these children were suffering from enlargement of glands, other than the Parotid, and were not really cases of Mumps, but 80 per cent. of them were genuine cases. The distinction is important as the one is infectious and the other not.

Chicken Pox—Ninety cases were notified, an increase of 61 over the number in 1911. These occurred as follows:—

Tonge School, 21 cases, February, March, and April.
 Parkfield School, 13 cases, February, March, April, and May.
 National School, 11 cases, May, June, July, and September.
 Durnford Street, 19 cases, May, June, July, and September.
 St. Peter's School, 6 cases, May, June, and July.
 St. Gabriels' School, 13 cases, June, August, October, November and December.
 Rhodes School 7 cases, July and August.

Exclusion from School under Section 53 (b) of the Code.

All these cases were found at school:—

Scarlet Fever (peeling)	2
Verminous Heads	42
Verminous Bodies	20
Impetigo	4
Ringworm.....	15
Ophthalmia	8
Accidents	2
Tubercular Glands	2
Tonsillitis.....	1
Total	96

These exclusions were all made for fixed periods, and were notified to the Attendance Officer also. In addition, the greater part of the cases treated at the office were excluded for the time during which they were attending there. Of these there were 30 cases of Ringworms, 21 cases of Ophthalmia, and 7 cases of Pediculosis of the Head. The total number of children excluded for causes other than infectious disease, during the year was 170.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The Inspection in 1912 entailed 120 visits to the various schools for this purpose only. Each visit occupied an average of $1\frac{3}{4}$ hours. The number of children examined amounted to 1,957, and the average time occupied for each child was 6 minutes.

Inspections were conducted on the school premises in all cases, except that of St. Leonard's School where no possible accommodation could be arranged. In this case by permission of the Library and Parks Committee the inspection was held in the rooms over the Free Library, which is a few yards away from the school. This arrangement was sanctioned by the Board of Education.

The procedure was not in any way altered from that of previous years. Notices were sent by the Head Teacher to the parents of the children, on the day previous to that on which the inspection was held, with the usual invitation to be present, and on the other side of the notice, is a list of ailments on which the parents are requested to indicate the previous history of the child, in the event of being unable to attend.

The interest taken in the inspection by the parents is very considerable, and their attendance is most desirable, but there are naturally many instances where such attendances are impossible, and in these cases if any defect is found in the child a notice is sent at once, indicating the defect and suggesting either consultation with the Medical Attendant of the family, or recourse to one or other of the special hospitals in Manchester.

The School Nurse is present at all inspections and weighs, measures, and prepares, the children for examination. She also, in the case of the children in the mixed department, makes the distance test for acuity of vision.

In all schools where the arrangement is possible, the Head Teacher is also present, and is of great assistance in affording information as to the general ability of the child.

The teachers provide me with a list of children to be examined on each day, with the name, address, date of birth, and date of admission to school, together with such details as if a half-timer, and if a first or other inspection. The school register is marked to show if and when the child has been inspected, thus rendering the omission of any child practically impossible.

For recording the items the following form is used :—

No..... School..... Date.....
Name
Address
Notes
Name..... No..... Date.....
Address..... School..... Standard.....
Date of Birth..... Age..... Admission.....
Parent present or written
Previous History
Height..... Weight..... Nutrition.....
Clothing..... Skin..... Hair.....
Teeth..... Glands.....
Tonsils..... Adenoids..... Ears.....
Eyes and Vision
Notes
.....
.....
.....

The counterfoil is kept at the school as a further source of reference for future inspections. The forms when filled up are taken to the office, where the clerk copies the details on to the card schedules.

After each school has been inspected, the names of those children inspected, are made into lists grouped under their respective ages, and these lists bound together with those resulting from previous years' inspections, at the same school. This affords a means for sorting out the children who have left school or left the district, and also for correcting and corroborating the teachers' list,

For convenience in compiling the mass of figures collected in the course of the year, and to facilitate reference to the schedule of any child, index sheets are used, on which most of the details of the child's condition are repeated, each sheet being appropriated to children of the same age, sex, and school.

For purposes of following up the cases in which defects are found, the same method as in the previous years is used, for the more common conditions. Separate lists are made for each school of all the cases found in each year's inspections, with enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids, and with defective vision. The lists are bound together, and so facilitate a rapid examination being made periodically, of the conditions of the defective children found since the commencement of school inspection. Other separate lists are compiled of Heart cases, Tubercular cases, and of Mentally Deficient children.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Board's Medical Inspector, a card index system is also used to keep a record of defective children, and the result of the recommendations made with respect to each child.

The number of Inspections at which the parents or other guardians of the child were present were :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
First Inspections	230	262	492	45 %
Re-inspections.....	167	207	374	42 %
	397	469	866	

The number of notices of defects found, sent to parents at the time of inspection was :—

First Inspections	52
Re-inspections	57
Total	109

SUMMARY OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.

Total Inspected ... Boys, 964
Girls, 993 Total, 1,957.

	Boys.		Girls.		Total
First Inspections	515	...	560	...	1075
Re-Inspections.....	449	...	433	...	882
Entrants	312	...	344	...	656
Nine Years Old.....	251	...	242	...	493
Leavers	254	...	264	...	518
Special Inspections	7	...	13	...	20
Half-timers.....	77	...	49	...	126

The children who are grouped as Entrants, were all first inspections, and include children of all ages who were new comers to the school. The Leavers include all children who were 12 years old or over, at the time of inspection.

The age groups were as follows :—

First Inspections.				Re-Inspections.			Total.
Age.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	
3	1	5	6	...	...	...	6
4	127	116	243	...	1	1	244
5	55	77	132	9	15	24	156
6	23	36	59	25	31	56	115
7	13	18	31	60	47	107	138
8	13	19	32	60	60	120	152
9	72	67	139	179	175	354	493
10	13	16	29	14	11	25	54
11	36	28	64	9	7	16	80
12	154	170	324	69	59	128	452
13	8	8	16	24	27	51	67
Total	515	560	1075	449	433	882	1957

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ILLNESSES.

		First Inspection		Re- Inspection		Total.	
Who had had	Measles	721	67%	757	86%	1478	75%
„ „	Whooping C'gh.	412	38%	368	41%	780	40%
„ „	Chicken Pox....	329	30%	283	32%	612	31%
„ „	Scarlet Fever ..	147	13%	103	11%	250	12%
„ „	Diphtheria.....	19	1.7%	25	2.8%	44	2.3%
„ „	Rheumatism ...	11	1%	10	1.1%	21	1%
„ „	Pneumonia	141	13%	121	13%	262	13%

The reason why the percentage of children who had had Measles is so much smaller among the First Inspection group, than in the Re-Inspection group is, that in the latter there were very few children under six years old, and consequently a large proportion of them had had the disease.

The percentage of past histories of Rheumatism was slightly less than in previous years, and the percentage of Pneumonia 2% more than in 1911.

The incidence of the common Infectious Diseases among the larger groups of children, was as follows (boys and girls together :—

Aged.	4	5	9	12 & 13
Measles	138—52%	86—55%	437—88%	458—88%
Whooping Cough ...	89—36%	44—28%	227—46%	217—42%
Chicken Pox	54—22%	34—21%	173—35%	184—35%
Scarlet Fever.....	11—4.5%	7— 4%	64—13%	108—21%

These figures come out much the same as last year, and they illustrate how few children escape Measles. Even of those who are in their first year of school life more than half have had Measles,

BOYS' HEIGHT AND WEIGHT.

Age.	Number Examined.	Height in Inches.	Standard Height in Inches.	Height in Cms.	Standard Height in Cms.	Weight in lbs.	Standard Weight in lbs.	Weight in Kilos.	Standard Weight in Kilos.
13	31	53.9	56.1	136.9	142.5	70.	77.5	31.75	35.15
12	223	53.6	55.	136.2	139.8	69.5	72.9	31.52	33.05
9	251	48.3	49.1	122.8	124.7	54.2	55.4	24.56	25.12
5	64	39.8	40.5	101.	103.	37.7	38.7	17.1	17.54
4	127	38.1	38.7	96.9	98.2	35.	35.9	15.87	16.29

GIRLS' HEIGHT AND WEIGHT.

Age.	Number Examined.	Height in Inches.	Standard Height in Inches.	Height in Cms.	Standard Height in Cms.	Weight in lbs.	Standard Weight in lbs.	Weight in Kilos.	Standard Weight in Kilos.
13	35	55.9	56.8	142.	144.5	77.9	80.1	35.34	36.31
12	229	53.3	54.6	135.3	138.7	66.4	73.9	30.12	33.51
9	242	47.9	48.7	121.6	123.7	52.4	54.6	23.78	24.75
5	92	39.2	40.4	99.7	102.6	36.6	37.6	16.6	17.07
4	117	37.8	38.6	96.	98.1	34.2	34.9	15.5	15.82

These tables give the average height and weight of the children in the larger age groups inspected, in English and French measurements. The standard for comparison is that compiled by Dr. Taxford and Dr. Ashleigh-Glegg, from the measurements of a very large number of English Elementary School Children.

The height and weight are both taken in ordinary clothing, but without boots and clogs.

All the children are on the average less in both respects than the standard, and the following figures give the differences :—

	Boys.		Girls.	
Aged 13	2.2 inches.	7.5 lbs.	.9 inches.	2.2 lbs.
„ 12	1.4 inches.	3.4 lbs.	1.3 inches.	7.5 lbs.
„ 9	.8 inches.	1.2 lbs.	.8 inches.	2.2 lbs.
„ 5	.7 inches.	1. lbs.	1.2 inches.	1. lbs.
„ 4	.6 inches.	.9 lbs.	.8 inches.	.7 lbs.

The remarkable deficiency in weight of the 13 year old boys and the 12 year old girls, is in general agreement with the results obtained in previous years, but is unusually great this year.

By calculating the average number of grammes weight for each centimetre of the height of the children of the same groups, a basis of comparison is obtained which indicates more clearly the various deficiencies.

	Middleton.	English.	Middleton.	English.
Age	Boys.	Boys.	Girls.	Girls.
13	231	246	248	251
12	231	236	222	241
9	200	201	195	200
5	169	170	166	166
4	163	165	161	161

Thus the boys of 13 are 15 grammes per centimetre less in weight than the standard, and the girls of 12 are 19 grammes less.

This indicates that the average nutritional condition of the children at these age periods is 6% and 8% below that of the average English child at the same age.

The effect of half-time labour in producing this result is at all events a probability. The children who commence work as soon as they are 12 years old, are not necessarily the worst nourished, as they cannot have lost much time in their school life from illness, or they would not have made sufficient attendances at school to provide the necessary excuse. On the other hand they are, or ought to be, the children of the poorest people to whom their meagre earnings are an important consideration.

The following figures give the details of the weights of the half-timers :—

Age.	Boys.		Girls.	
	13.	12.	13.	12.
Number Examined	11	66	5	44
Percentage of Group....	35%	30%	14%	20%
Average Weight.....	70.8 lbs.	70.8 lbs.	81.2 lbs.	70.2 lbs.
Difference from Standard	6.7 lbs.	2.1 lbs.	+1.1 lbs.	9.9 lbs.
Grammes per Centimetre .	235	231	253	230
Dificiency from Standrad	11	5	+2	11
Average dificiency from Standard of all children } weighed in 1912.....	15	5	3	19

From these figures it may be concluded that the effect of half-time working is not to reduce the nutritional condition of the children for the average deficiency is less in the half-timer than in the children of the same age groups taken as a whole. In the case of the 13 year old girls the average nutrition is actually above the standard, but this is due to the small number in the group who all happened to be big robust healthy girls.

In my first report to the Committee, in 1908, I made a similar calculation, and the comparison of the figures led to a similar conclusion. The following table gives the results of the calculations in both years. The Half-timers and the total examinations are of all children over 12 years old taken together :—

	1907		1912.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Total Weighed	143	185	254	264
Average Weight....	31.34 Kilos	32.07 Kilos	31.55 Kilos	30.81 Kilos
Average Height	138.2 C.ms.	139.3C.ms.	136.3C.ms.	136.1 C.ms.
Grammes per Cent. .	227	230	231	226
Half-timers Weighed	88	58	77	49
Average Weight....	30.98 Kilos	32.02 Kilos	32.11 Kilos	32.25 Kilos
Average Height	137 Cms.	139.4 Cms.	138.7 Cms.	138.7 Cms.
Grammes per Cent.	226	230	231	232

Thus instead of the Half-timers showing, as might be expected, a marked deterioration in their physical condition, the only differences were that the boys in 1907 averaged 1 gramme less to the centimetre, than the average of all the children weighed at the same age, and the girls in 1912 averaged 6 grammes per centimetre more.

NUTRITION.

Number of Inspected, 964 Boys, 995 Girls.

	1910		1911		1912	
	Boys	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Normal	80.1%	76.4%	74.3%	72.7%	76.3%	77.3%
Moderate.....	8.6%	9.7%	13.6%	10.5%	17.4%	13.5%
Defective	11.3%	13.9%	12.1%	16.8%	6.3%	9.2%

The percentage of cases of defective nutrition is less than in the two previous years, but it is a much too common defect in 1912. All these children were much below in weight, the average standard for their height and age. I would again insist upon the influence that a bad condition of the mouth has upon the nutrition of the child. The presence of a number of decayed teeth in the mouth of an otherwise normal child, undoubtedly interferes with its digestion, and this added to the septic condition which always accompanies decay, is responsible for a large proportion of the malnutrition. Much greater attention should be paid to the diet of school children than is customary, and the quantity of tea consumed should be reduced to a minimum.

It would, in my opinion, be a great deal more useful to teach the girls of 12 years and over, how to buy and how to cook proper food, than many of the subjects upon which their time is wasted under the present system. There is a great lack of knowledge of the the most elementary housewifery, among the artisan class, and this is one of the many reasons why under-nourishment of children is so commonly found.

During the year a number of children were fed in the schools, under the powers of the Education (Provision of Meals Act) 1906.

The following table indicates the schools at which this was carried out, and the number fed in each month :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	May.	June.	July.	Nov.	Dec.
All Saint's								
Rhodes	8	9	9	14	14	11	7	6
Durnford St. ..	14	17	17	24	24	24	24	14
St. Peter's.....	17	20	21	13	13	13	—	16
St. Leonard's .	—	13	14	—	—	—	—	—
Tonge	—	11	12	—	—	—	5	4
Birch	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	39	70	73	51	51	48	40	40
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The food given consisted of Milk and Bread, served in the recreation interval in the mornings.

CONDITION OF TEETH.

Number examined (First Inspections), 1,075.

	Number Examined.	Excellent.	Good.	Bad.
Boys	515	107 20%	318 61%	90 17%
Girls.....	560	100 18%	354 63%	106 18%
Total	1075	207 19%	672 62%	196 18%

Number Examined (Re-Inspections), 882.

	Number Examined.	Excellent.	Good.	Bad.
Boys	449	23 5%	297 66%	129 28%
Girls.....	433	34 8%	273 63%	126 29%
Total	882	57 6%	570 64%	255 29%

Of the whole number of children examined 13% had excellent teeth, 63% had good teeth, and 23% had bad teeth. The difference in the percentages of children with excellent teeth are due to the number of 4 year olds included in the first inspection, that being the age when the dentition is most frequently found excellent.

The figures refer to the condition, as to colour, shape, quality, and cleanliness, and not to the amount of decay present. Those with excellent teeth had perfect dentures and no decay.

There were 46 cases of extreme irregularity among the first inspections, and 35 among the re-inspections. The greater proportion of these 81 children had teeth of good quality and shape. The irregularity was due to the presence of teeth of the first dentition at the same time that the second teeth appeared, and would not have occurred if the children's mouths had been properly supervised by their parents.

As regards the presence and amount of decay, the figures are as follows (boys and girls together) :—

	First Inspections.		Re- Inspections.	
No Decay	237	22%	57	6%
Not more than 3 Decayed ..	275	25%	226	25%
Not more than 5 Decayed ..	294	27%	242	27%
More than 5 Decayed	269	25%	357	40%
Total	1075		882	

Of the whole number examined in 1912 :—

294 15% had no decayed teeth.
 501 26% had from 1-3 decayed.
 536 27% had from 3-5 decayed.
 626 31% had more than 5 decayed.

In the larger age groups of children the figures were :—

Boys and girls together. A First inspections, B Re-inspections.

Age.	Num- ber.	No Decay.	1—3 Decayed.	3—5 Decayed.	Over 5 Decayed.
13 A	16	3	1	8	4
13 B	51	3	16	15	17
12 A	324	49	94	120	61
12 B	128	18	46	35	29
Total	519	73 14%	157 30%	178 34%	111 21%

9 A	139	9		34		41		55	
9 B	354	16		77		106		155	
Total	493	25	5%	111	22%	147	30%	210	42%
5 A	132	23	17%	35	26%	37	28%	37	28%
4 A	243	123	50%	45	18%	34	14%	41	17%
Total	375	146	39%	80	21%	71	19%	78	21%

All this laborious examination and compilation of figures, merely emphasizes the necessity of dental treatment being provided for these children. It is most difficult to persuade the parents to obtain treatment for them, and a very small number have done so. The expense entailed is one great obstacle, but a still greater is the objection on the part of the child, and I fear that the latter obstacle would be almost, if not quite, as effective even if a dental clinic were established in Middleton for their treatment. The parents are quite unable to understand that the presence of badly decayed teeth is a constant menace to health, and that most of the small ailments of children and adults, arise from their presence.

I cannot too strongly insist on the fact that the care of the teeth is one of the most important points in the care of the child, and there will be very little progress made in improving the type of the elementary school children until this can be impressed upon their parents.

CLOTHING.

Number Examined, 1,957.					
	Boys.			Girls.	
First Inspections	515			560	
Clothing, sufficient, good, and clean	487			520	
Clothing Dirty	28	5.4%		40	7.1%
Clothing, insufficient.....	9	1.7%		10	1.8%
Overclothed	3			4	
Re-inspections	449			433	
Clothing, sufficient, good, and clean	422			401	
Clothing Dirty	18	4%		20	4.6%
Clothing, insufficient.....	9	2%		12	2.7%

Of the whole number examined in the year, 46 boys and 60 girls were found with clothing in an unsatisfactory condition. Eighteen boys and 22 girls had an insufficient quantity of clothing, and 3 boys and 4 girls were overclothed.

Children with defective clogs or boots, were not found in very large number. The worst cases, where poverty was the real reason for this defect, were remedied by the provision of 23 new pairs, and the repair of two others through the agency of a small clog fund.

Thirty-three children were noted, as wearing so-called chest protectors, consisting of the usual varied assortment of material, brown paper, flannel, rabbit skin, leather, and in one case, the remains of an old fur "tippet."

This is, in my opinion, a particularly bad arrangement, as the extra warmth is only provided for a part of the chest, and that not the most vulnerable. If, for delicate bronchitic children, some extra covering is necessary, it should consist of an extra garment to cover the whole of the chest.

The ridiculous overloading of a few children, and those always the delicate ones, with layer upon layer of woollen clothing, is another dangerous arrangement. The child so clothed perspires freely on making the least exertion, and is so rendered far more susceptible to take cold than if rationally dressed.

BODILY CLEANLINESS.

Number Examined, 1,957.

First Inspections—	Boys.	Girls.
Clean	488	508
Dirty	37 7.2%	52 9.3%
Re-Inspections—		
Clean	417	396
Dirty	32 7.1%	37 8.6%
Badly Fleabitten	29	44
Verminous Heads	...	64
Verminous Bodies	1	2

Of the whole of the number examined, 69.7% of the boys were dirty, and 89.9% of the girls. The percentage of the boys is higher by 2.5 than in the report for 1911, the percentage of girls being practically the same.

Thirty-nine of the dirty children were over twelve years old, 7% of the number examined at that age. Two per cent. of these children had clean clothing on dirty bodies.

Verminous heads. These were all girls, and there were 17 cases less in number than in the previous year. They were all very bad cases, and required radical treatment in order to make them fit to associate with their fellow pupils. Notice was sent, in each case, to the parents, to cleanse the child's head, and in only a small minority of the cases was any trouble experienced in getting the children back to school in a decent condition. Forty-nine of the cases were treated by the Nurse at the office, with the consent of the parents. It will be readily understood that this treatment does not render the office a more agreeable place to work in, and there should be some means of giving these cases a whole bath at the same time.

There are a certain number of families in the Borough whose children give much trouble in this respect. They are all known to the Nurse, who keeps a record of the conditions at each house, and of the history of the child. The hair of these children is examined by the Nurse on every visit to the school they attend, and thus a fairly constant supervision is kept of their state of cleanliness. In spite of all the care taken, they are periodically found to have relapsed and to be again verminous. The consequence of the presence of these children in school is that the mothers, who are careful and whose children are quite clean, are put to much inconvenience and unnecessary trouble to keep them so. It is for this reason that I always recommend that the girls attending school should wear their hair in plaits, as this renders them less liable to bring their clean hair into contact with another child's verminous head.

Verminous Bodies — Three cases were found in the course of the routine inspection, and were members of two families. Seventeen other cases were found in the schools during the year, making a total of 20. Most of the latter were old offenders, and special

supervision is kept of all cases where this condition has been found in past years. In one case it was necessary to take proceedings, through the Attendance Officer, in the Police Court. This, together with a good deal of attention from the N.S.P.C.C. Officer, has at last resulted in a desirable condition of the children being attained, which is more permanent than ever before.

Fleabitten Children—Of these there were 73 cases observed, in which this condition was very prominent. They were not all dirty children, and in a few cases it was excusable as the marks were all recent, and some children are much more easily affected by flea bites than others, moreover, a single specimen is able to put in a good deal of work, showing marked results in a single night.

Scabies—Itch—There were three cases found at Inspection affecting two families.

DISEASES OF THE HAIR AND SKIN.

The number of cases noted was 52.

Alopecia	1
Ringworm.....	11
Impetigo	28
Herpes.....	3
Lichen	1
Acne	1
Dermatitis Exfoliata.....	4
Scabies	3
	—
Total	52
	—

These figures indicate the cases found at the routine inspection. In addition 34 cases of Ringworm and 16 cases of Impetigo, were either notified by the Teachers or found in the schools by the Nurse. The total number of cases of Ringworm in the schools during 1912 was therefore 45, and of Impetigo, 44.

With the exception of the case of Alopecia, 4 cases of Ringworm and the 4 of Dermatitis, which were chronic, all these children were cured at the end of the year.

ACUITY OF VISION AND DISEASES OF THE EYE.

	First Inspections.		Re- Inspections.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Number Tested.....	279	303	374	325
Vision Normal	255	258	335	276
Vision Defective	24	45	39	49
Percentage Defective	8.6%	14.8%	10.4%	15%
Cases of Squint	11	11	9	7
Wearing Spectacles ..	6	14	10	10

Of the whole number tested, 653 boys and 628 girls, vision was found defective, in 63, 9.6% of the boys, and 94, 15% of the girls. Thirty-eight children had squint, and forty were wearing spectacles.

At 12 years old 10% boys and 16% girls had defective vision, and at 9 years old, 8% boys and 13 %girls.

In every case of defect of this character the parents are advised either verbally or by letter to take the child to the Eye Hospital in Manchester, or to a Specialist in Eye Diseases, for treatment.

All the cases left untreated at the end of 1911, and the new cases found in 1912, have been re-examined with a view to ascertain the number that have had treatment, and to reinsist on the parents obtaining treatment for those that have not.

The total re-examinations made were : of old cases, 226 ; and of 1912 cases, 144. Of these, 370, 57 have taken the advice given, 137 have left school or the district, and 176 were untreated at the end of the year.

The number of cases treated was deplorably small, considering the importance to the child's future, of remedying this defect as early as possible, but it is difficult to persuade the parents of the necessity, even in some of the bad cases. The time and trouble necessary to obtain treatment, the expense, and in many cases, the absolute indifference to the welfare of their children, all tend to modify the success with which this defect is dealt with.

Of diseases of the Eye and Eye Lids, the following cases were noted :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blepharitis.....	9	15	24
Conjunctivitis (Acute)	5	8	13
Conjunctivitis (Chronic)	3	6	9
Stye	...	3	3
Meibomian Cyst.....	...	1	1
Cataract	1	...	1
Corneal Ulcer	...	1	1
Corneal Opacitus	2	1	3
Lachrymal Obstruction	...	1	1
Nystagmus	1	...	1
	—	—	—
Total	21	36	57
	—	—	—

Two boys had each lost one eye through accident, one girl from Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and 2 boys through untreated Squint

ENLARGED TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

	First Inspections.			Re- Inspections.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Tot.
With Tonsils, requiring operation	33	30	63	24	30	54
With Adenoids „ „	25	29	54	27	26	53
With Enlarged Tonsils, not re- quiring operation	31	29	60	33	40	73
Mouth Breathers (Habit)	6	5	11	6	3	9
Tonsils had been removed	7	6	13	14	16	30
Adenoids had been removed ...	6	8	14	11	14	25
Throat Deafness	6	17	23	10	10	20

The children re-inspected, who had been operated upon since the previous inspection, amounted to :—

Tonsils Removed.....	3
Tonsils and Adenoids Removed.....	27
Adenoids Removed	2
	—
Total	32
	—

Of the cases left over from 1911, together with those found in 1912, 631, 12 have had Tonsils removed, and 37 have had Tonsils and Adenoids removed. 201 have left school or the district, or were absent at the time when the re-examination of the throats was made. Sixty-nine cases had greatly improved, and 180 children with enlarged Tonsils, and 132 with Tonsils and Adenoids, remain in the schools at the end of 1912.

Of the whole of the children inspected :—

1,075 First Inspections,	123,	11%	had enlargement.
	63,	5%	required operation.
882 Re-Inspections	127,	14%	had enlargement.
	73,	8%	required operation.

DEAFNESS AND DISEASES OF EAR.

Number Examined, 1,957.

Defective Hearing ...	24 Boys	17 Girls
Throat Deafness	16 „	27 „
Excess of Cerumen....	8 „	5 „
	—	—
Total	48 „	49 „
	—	—

These figures give the high proportion of 5%, but the cases of Throat Deafness and those due to the presence of wax, are readily curable, and the proportion of serious cases of deafness was 2.4% boys, and 1.6% girls.

There were 7 children with history of previous disease of the ear

Twelve cases of inflammation of the middle Ear, were found. Two cases re-inspected were greatly improved since the previous inspection, and there were 4 cases of disease of the external Ear (furuncle)

DISEASES OF THE NOSE AND THROAT.

The following cases were noted :—

Nasal Catarrh	7 cases.
Tonsillitis.....	3 „
Laryngitis.....	1 „
Pharyngitis.....	2 „
Deflected Septum	3 „
Polypus Nasi.....	1 „

One other case of Polypus of the Nose had been cured by operation.

ENLARGED CERVICAL AND SUBMAXILLARY GLANDS.

Fifty-eight cases were scheduled. The Glands were so much enlarged as to be visible, and they were all due to the usual causes such as, Impetigo, Decayed Teeth, or Pediculosis of the Head. One boy had Lymphadenoma of the Neck.

DEFECTIVE SPEECH.

Sixteen children had defects of Speech. Six were stammering, and the remaining ten young children who will speak correctly as they grow older.

RICKETS.

Thirty-one boys and 32 girls were found to show evidence of Rickets. The total 63 is 3.2% of all the children examined. Two boys and 3 girls were greatly improved since a previous inspection, and 1 was under hospital treatment for deformity at the time of inspection.

TUBERCULOSIS.

One child only was found to be suffering from Tuberculosis of the lungs.

Four children had Tubercle of the Glands of the Neck.

Two girls had Tubercular Glands removed.

Two cases of Phthisis have been examined at the office, and are excluded from school.

DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.

Heart Disease.—Twenty cases were found of which 11 were among the first inspections, and were new cases. Two old cases were improved, and 1 was much worse. They, with one exception, which was congenital, had histories of previous attacks of Rheumatism or Chorea. Two cases have been examined at the office and are excluded.

Anæmia.—There were 29 children very Anæmic.

NERVOUS CONDITIONS AND DISEASES.

Nervousness.—This indefinite condition occurred in 11 boys and 18 girls. It is partly a temperamental condition, but is encouraged by late hours, wrong feeding, and excitement. Many of these children are quite healthy and strong.

Epilepsy.—Three new cases were found among the first inspections, 1 boy and 2 girls. They were none of them severe cases.

Chorea.—No fresh cases appeared at the inspections, and only 1 case was seen at the office and excluded from school.

OTHER DEFECTS.

Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh.—Eighteen girls and 10 boys had symptoms of Bronchial trouble at the time of inspection, and were advised to consult their doctor, or to remain at home for a few days, according to the severity of the symptoms.

Dyspepsia and Gastric Catarrh.—Nine boys and 17 girls were not in a fit state to be at school, owing to stomach trouble, and were sent home until well.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

One boy and 4 girls among the first inspections were defective, and 4 boys and 3 girls among the re-inspections.

WORK OF HALF-TIMERS.

The following is a list of the employment of Half-timers examined in 1912 :—

	Boys.	Girls.
Weaving	5	23
Cotton Spinning	54	20
Printworks	5	4
Errand Boy	4	...
Newspaper Boy	2	...
Firelighter Maker	2	...
Barber.....	2	

One boy each—Farm, Blockcutter, Wheelwright.

One girl each—Home, Confectioner.

TREATMENT.

The following table gives the number of cases seen by me or treated by the Nurses under my supervision :—

Disease.	No. of Cases.	No. of Attendance.	Average per case.
Ringworm.....	45	351	7.8
Pediculosis.....	49	178	3.6
Conjunctivitis	3	5	3.1
Ophthalmia	26	86	
Impetigo	5	9	2.5
Eczema	12	34	
Enlarged Glands.....	8	14	
Accidents	43	70	
Otitis Media	1	9	
Phthisis.....	2	2	
Chorea.....	1	1	
Heart Disease	2	2	
Total	197	761	

The children attend at the office from 9 to 10 in the morning, and on Monday evenings from 6 to 8.

At the end of 1912 there were 4 cases attending for treatment, 2 of Ringworms, and 2 of Ophthalmic.

FOLLOWING UP RETURN 1912.

DEFECT.	Old Cases.	New Cases.	Total.	No Report.	Treated.			Untreated.
					Cured.	Improved.	Unchang'd.	
Tonsils	238	143	381	130	12	59	180	180
Tonsils and Adenoids .	145	105	250	71	37	10	132	132
Glands.....	11	...	11	2	5	2	2	2
Tonsils and Glands	8	2	10	3	1	...	6	6
Squint	57	22	79	30	5	20	24	24
Vision.....	226	144	370	137	57	...	127	179
Total	685	416	1101	373	117	91	471	523

These figures omit cases of Verminous Heads and Bodies, Ringworm, Impetigo, as these are all cases in followed up immediately, they are reported or discovered, and all are cured.

All cases in table as cured have either had operation performed or have been provided with proper spectacles.

